

MARCH April

2003

# Golden Valley

## CITYNEWS

### City Responds To State Budget Proposal

The City of Golden Valley implemented a series of budget cuts March 12 in response to Governor Pawlenty's state budget proposal to eliminate local government aid and homestead credit payments to municipalities. The proposal requires Golden Valley to cut \$589,338 from its budget in 2003 and 2004. Although State legislative bodies have not yet adopted the governor's recommendations, City Manager Tom Burt is responding to the clear signal that State budget shortfalls will impact the City of Golden Valley.

"The governor's recommended budget represents a worst case scenario," says Burt, "but we recognize that the City will be significantly impacted no matter what the outcome. By enacting these budget cuts immediately, we'll save more money than if we wait until the legislature adopts a final budget."

Burt used a multifaceted approach to determine the budget cuts. After briefing all City staff members on the governor's proposal in a series of meetings February 25, he invited them to participate in the process by submitting ideas for reducing the City's budget. He also asked City department heads to submit suggestions for reducing their respective budgets by 4%, which equals roughly \$590,000. Burt used that information, along with his awareness of City Council priorities and his 20-plus years of experience managing municipal government, to forge a final list of budget cuts, which he shared with the City Council in a March 7 memo.

In an effort to maintain external service levels, many of the cuts affect internal operations and capital expenditures. For example, the City will delay a number of scheduled building maintenance projects and equipment purchases. Nearly half of the cuts are reflected in the loss of six staff positions—four through layoffs and two by not filling current vacancies. Burt acknowledged that cutting staff was difficult but necessary


(City Budget continued on page 2)

### COMMUNITY Video PROJECT

The City of Golden Valley, the Golden Valley Historical Society, and the Golden Valley Rotary are partnering to create a documentary-style video about Golden Valley that will highlight three major themes: history, building a strong community, and development of a municipality.

The completed video will tell the story of Golden Valley and how it developed from a small farming community to a dynamic yet tranquil first-ring suburb in one of the country's largest and fastest-growing metropolitan areas. It will tell the story of how a strong community was built and how that sense of community has been maintained through years of growth, challenges, and change.

Portions of the video, which will be funded through a grant by Rotary International, will be used in the final phase of the City's visioning process (see article on page 2).

If you're interested in sharing your memories, thoughts, or viewpoints about Golden Valley for possible inclusion in the video, contact Don Anderson at 763-588-8578. 

### IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 2

Help "Envision" THE FUTURE OF GOLDEN VALLEY | 2

BRUSH PICK-UP TO BEGIN APRIL 28 | 4

GOLDEN VALLEY SENIOR PROGRAM: HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE OLD? | 6

AVOID THE CONTRACTOR BLUES | 8

VULNERABLE ADULTS MAY NEED YOUR HELP | 10

3 | PHOTO CONTEST SEEKS ENTRIES

5 | TREE DISEASES THREATEN URBAN FOREST

7 | BARBARA BAILEY HONORED FOR SERVICE

9 | CITY CREWS SWEEP WINTER AWAY

11 | CITY NEEDS FIREFIGHTERS

## Brookview BULLETIN

As part of its 2003 Pavement Management Program, this spring the City will begin rehabilitating the streets near Brookview Park and Brookview Golf course.

### BROOKVIEW PARK TO CLOSE AUGUST 4

Starting August 4, Brookview Park will be closed for construction. Picnic shelters will be available for reservations from Sunday April 13 through Sunday August 3. Contact the Park & Recreation office at 763-512-2345 to make reservations.

### GOLF COURSE WILL BE OPEN AS USUAL

The City will maintain access to Brookview Golf Course throughout the construction. Call Brookview at 763-512-2330, or check the City web site for current updates.

# Help "Envision" The Future of Golden Valley

This spring, the City of Golden Valley will implement the final phase in the City's five-year visioning process. Recently the Golden Valley Rotary, as part of its 30th anniversary celebration, offered to help recruit community organizations to participate. The City is seeking residents, businesses, and community groups who will help lead the community through an interactive visioning process. The desired outcome is a blueprint for the City's future.

The visioning process began with a City Council retreat in 1997 and included citizen surveys in 1999 and 2001 and neighborhood focus groups in 2001. Its goal is to inspire citizens to contemplate the meaning of community and their own vision for the future of Golden Valley, then interact at a community event to develop a collective vision and prioritize ways to accomplish it.



As a first step, community groups will help the City Council establish a steering committee of volunteers who will coordinate the full range of activities for the final phase of visioning. Mayor Linda Loomis met March 15 with community groups to begin discussing the varied roles to be undertaken by the City Council, community groups, and the steering committee.

If you're interested in serving on the City's visioning steering committee, or on one of its subcommittees, contact Mayor Loomis at 763-593-3990 or [Linda.Loomis@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:Linda.Loomis@ci.golden-valley.mn.us). For more information about *Envision Golden Valley*, contact Jeanne Andre (763-593-8014) or Cheryl Weiler (763-593-8004).

## City Budget

(continued from page 1)

to reduce long-term spending. "Unfortunately, the service-oriented nature of municipal government makes staff the only truly sustainable budget cut," he explains.

Staff positions that were lost include the city planner, a maintenance worker, a part-time records clerk, and the building custodian. In addition, two vacant community service officer positions will not be filled.

Burt stresses that the City is committed to protecting the quality of life citizens have come to expect and that staff will continue to develop reasonable solutions to the current budget situation.

"By changing the way we work, and with some future reorganization, the City will be able to streamline the workplace to save money," says Burt. "This will be an ongoing process over the next several years as the City positions itself to operate more effectively in a new economic environment."

If you have questions about Golden Valley's budget situation, contact City Manager Tom Burt at 763-593-8003.

## local board of REVIEW

Each spring property owners receive a valuation notice that gives them the estimated market value of their property as of January 2 of that year. This market value is the basis for the following year's tax on the property. For example, the market value as of January 2, 2003 will be used to calculate the 2004 property tax.

If property owners have questions about their valuation or think it is incorrect, they should first talk to the assessor (see phone number below). The City of Golden Valley contracts with Hennepin County for assessing services, but the assessors have offices at City Hall.

If there is still a problem, the next step is for property owners to appeal to the Local Board of Review. The City Council acts as the Board of Review and can reduce the assessor's market value on a given property, if the property owner presents a persuasive argument. Most successful appeals include an independent appraisal of the property (paid for by the property owner).

Golden Valley's Local Board of Review hearing is scheduled for 7 pm Tuesday, April 22, 2003 at City Hall. Property owners who want to appear before the Board of Review can get on the agenda by contacting the Hennepin County assessor before the meeting.

For more information about property valuation or the Board of Review, contact the Hennepin County Assessor at 763-593-8025.

# Views of the Valley Photo Contest Seeks Entries

Golden Valley residents have participated in the City's annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest for 10 years, enthusiastically documenting neighborhood nature areas, parks, public spaces, and community spirit. Although the goal of the contest is to promote Golden Valley and civic pride in a way that's entertaining, educational, and fun, when the City initiated the contest in 1993 it had additional goals in mind.

"Because our publishing budgets are pretty tight, I was looking for ways to obtain quality photography without spending any money," explains Golden Valley Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler. "Most options I explored had price tags that were out of our league, and any free stock photography was rarely relevant to our needs."

After reading about a photo contest sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities magazine, Weiler called the League's communications coordinator and asked if Golden Valley could "steal" the idea. Since then, the *Views of the Valley* photo contest has been supplying the City of Golden Valley with a wide array of community images that are regularly used in print pieces, on the web site, and as background on the City's cable channel 16. Several of the winning photographs have been enlarged for display in City Hall as public art.

"Overall, *Views of the Valley* has been a successful program for the City," says Weiler. "Golden Valley has a lot of talented, generous citizens who have been willing to share their energy and creativity with the community. In 10 years we've built up a very useful photo library, and the price was right."

There are two ways to participate. One is to enter the contest (see rules below) by submitting your favorite photos of Golden Valley. Another is to vote for your favorite photo in the "People's Choice" award category. Look for "People's Choice" voting details in the May/June issue of *CityNews*.

Questions? Need more entry forms? Call 763-593-8004. To see past winners or to download an entry form, check [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/photocontest.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/photocontest.htm).

## CONTEST RULES

- You must be a Golden Valley resident (City employees and their families are not eligible to enter).
- Submit photos in one of two categories: Natural Golden Valley (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc), or Golden Valley Lifestyle (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc).
- Submit color or black-and-white 5 x 7 photos (no slides).
- Enter up to three photos. Include completed entry information for each.
- Deadline is June 9, 2003, 4:30 pm.

Overall grand prize is \$100. Winners of each category will receive \$50. Winning photos are published in *CityNews* and the City web site and may be reproduced for permanent display in City Hall.

All entries are displayed in City Hall throughout the summer. Winners will be notified by June 27 and will later receive certificates of appreciation at a City Council meeting.



2002 GRAND PRIZE WINNER  
GENERAL MILLS WILD GRASSES AT SUNSET  
by ELLEN G. ANDERSON

## PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Mail or drop off complete entries to Photo Contest, City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Category:

- ☐ Natural Golden Valley  
☐ Golden Valley Lifestyle

Title of the Photo:

I agree to let the City of Golden Valley publish my photo(s) in City publications with proper credit.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Holiday Notice

Recycling pick-up the week of the Memorial Day holiday will be one day later than usual. Have your recyclables at the curb by 7 am Saturday, May 31.



The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

## 24-Hour Recycling Info-Line

Features recorded answers to your recycling questions 24 hours a day. Just call 763-593-8119 to reach the Golden Valley Recycling Information Line (directions for rotary phone users are on the message). For information on:

- curbside recycling, press 1
- apartment recycling, press 2
- yard waste disposal, press 3
- household hazardous waste disposal, press 4

**763-593-8119**

## Missed Pick-Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Waste Management at 952-890-1100 before noon on the following Monday.

If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

# Brush Pick-Up Set To Begin April 28

Mark your calendar for Golden Valley's annual Spring Brush Pick-Up, which is set to begin April 28 and continue through May 16 (see schedule below). The program gives homeowners the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at their curbs for collection and disposal.

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Please observe the following guidelines when preparing your brush for pick-up:

- Tree limbs and brush must be four inches in diameter or less and approximately six feet long or less.
- Stack so the larger ends face the street (do NOT tie limbs together).
- Condense brush to one pile per household. Trucks will stop only once at each property, so if there is more than one pile, only one will be picked up.
- Do not use plastic bags.
- Keep brush and limbs completely clear of sidewalks, mailboxes, streetlights and sign poles, landscaping and fences, overhead tree branches, and power lines. If piles don't fit between the curb and sidewalk, place them on the boulevard behind the sidewalk. The contractor uses trucks with automated loading arms to pick up the brush piles. If your brush is stacked near a restricted area or tossed in a pile rather than stacked, it will be left behind.
- No leaves, grass clippings, stumps, roots, limbs exceeding the size limits, building lumber, landscape timbers, or bags of garbage will be picked up. If any of these items are mixed in the brush stacks, the entire stack will be left behind. The contractor will not sort through brush stacks for acceptable material.



Brush Pile

To dispose of brush or tree waste not collected in this pick-up, contact your garbage hauler or choose a contractor from the Yellow Pages. Watch this newsletter or check the Recycling Information Line (763-593-8119) for updates. 

## pick-up SCHEDULE

The City will be divided into three sections (see below), with a week designated for pick-up in each. **Brush must be placed on the curb by 8 am Monday the week of pick-up and must remain there until picked up.** If there is a lot of brush, pick-up may take longer than a week.

Section 1	Entire area south of Hwy 55	week of April 28
Section 2	Entire area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr	week of May 5
Section 3	Entire area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr	week of May 12

Be ready. This is a one-time pick-up only. Trucks will not return to neighborhoods for late set-outs. If you miss your pick-up week, you must plan for other means of disposal.

The Spring Curbside Brush Pick-Up is a component of the Golden Valley recycling program. If you have questions about the brush pick-up program, call 763-593-8030.

# Tree Diseases Continue To Threaten Urban Forest

With thousands of elm and oak trees in Golden Valley, both Dutch elm disease (DED) and oak wilt are major concerns. After nearly a decade of decline, confirmed cases of these tree diseases began climbing in 2000. Last year, the City handled more than 600 inquiries and private consultations concerning tree diseases and other landscape-related concerns. DED was found in 277 elm trees (as compared to 175 in 2001), and nine red oaks were determined to have oak wilt. Since spring is when elms and oaks are most susceptible to disease, the City's environmental coordinator and tree inspector believe that increased community awareness now will help minimize the loss of trees later.

## DISEASE PREVENTION

Dutch elm and oak wilt diseases are spread two ways: overland transmission via an infected beetle and underground transmission through common root systems of like species. Elm bark beetles breed in diseased trees and in recently cut (non-diseased) firewood. They become active in April and fly from tree to tree, introducing spores of the fungus into healthy elm trees. Oak wilt is transmitted through root grafts or by fungal spores on the diseased tree that attract beetles. The oak wilt beetle is active in April, May, and June, when the tree is chemically susceptible to infection.

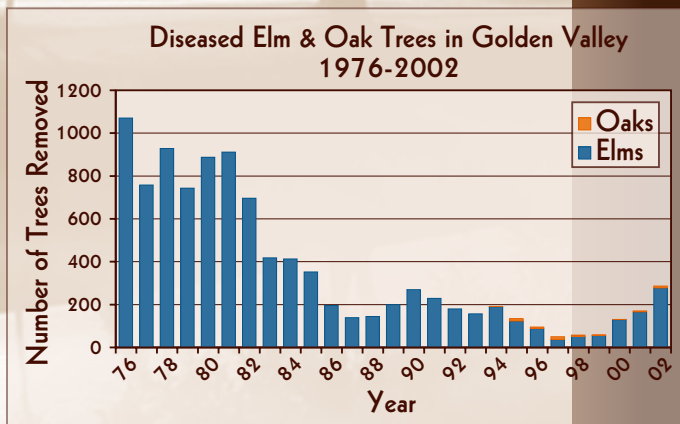
To decrease the chance of infection, do not trim oak and elm trees during the growing season (April 1 through September 30). Accidental wounds to oak trees during April, May, and June should be covered with pruning paint. Recent trimmings from elm trees, whether the tree was healthy, diseased, or died from another cause, provide excellent breeding material for the elm bark beetles that spread DED. These beetles breed in any dead elm wood where the bark is intact. Check firewood or branches for green elm wood. Destroy, burn, debark, or remove green elm wood with intact bark by April 1. The wood cannot be safely stored in a garage or indoors.

## DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Each June, July and August, the City's environmental coordinator and tree inspector check public and private property to detect diseased elms and oaks. The first sign of the disease is the wilting of one or more branches in the upper part of the tree. Affected elm leaves turn dull green to yellow, then curl and sometimes fall to the ground. The disease progresses down the infected branch and into the main trunk. A certified tree inspector can positively identify Dutch elm disease by obtaining a wilted branch and peeling back the bark to expose the tissue. If you suspect that trees on your property have problems, report them as soon as possible.

The City is responsible for removing diseased trees from public property. Diseased trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. Trees must be removed within 20 days of disease confirmation and notification. If no action is taken within 20 days of the removal notice, the City issues a "Forced Removal Notice" and has the tree(s) removed with the costs assessed against the property owner's tax liability. A property owner may NOT store elm wood unless all of the bark has been removed. If the stump is not removed, all above-ground portions must be debarked.

If you have questions or need to report a diseased tree, call Golden Valley's environmental coordinator at 763-593-8046 or seasonal tree inspector at 763-593-3976.



## FREE HOME LANDSCAPING SEMINARS

Hennepin County Environmental Services and the U of M Extension Service are hosting free earth-friendly home landscaping seminars at the Eco-Yard Demonstration Site, which is adjacent to the Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station, 8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park.

The Eco-Yard demonstrates an approach to home landscaping in which plants thrive with minimal inputs of pesticides, fertilizers, water, and time. Rainwater gardens, small and tall shrub massings, prairie garden, fescue grasses, and tree groves are highlighted on site.

### SEMINAR SCHEDULE

April 12, 9 am—Spring Cleaning—What Every Eco-Yard Needs To Kick-Off The Season

April 23, 6:30 pm—Earth Friendly Landscaping Design Basics

April 30, 6:30 pm—Soil & How To Improve It

May 10 & Sept 6, 9 am—Low Input Lawn Care

May 14, 6:30 pm or  
May 17, 9 am—Composting 101

May 21, 6:30 pm—Earth Friendly Landscaping Design Basics

May 28, 6:30 pm or July 26 9 am—Diagnose Your Diseased Plant

June 11 & July 16, 6:30 pm—Rainwater Gardens

June 21, 9 am—Selecting and Using Native Plants Wisely

Aug 27, 6:30 pm—Fall Maintenance For Earth Friendly Home

The Eco-Yard site is also open for self-guided tours all season long.

For more information, please visit [www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental/household/ecoyard.html](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental/household/ecoyard.html) or call 612-348-9266.



## May Is Older Americans Month

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."  
Henry Ford

"Just remember, when you're over the hill, you begin to pick up speed."  
Charles Schulz

"No one can avoid aging, but aging productively is something else."  
Katharine Graham

Don't just count your years, make your years count.  
Ernest Meyers

# The Golden Valley Seniors Program Asks How Do You Want To Be Old?

People grow older—it's a simple fact of life. Yet how we age has become a major point of discussion in homes and conference rooms around the United States. It seems the proverbial golden years are truly becoming just that, and people approaching the age when their parents retired are asking themselves, "How do I want to be old?"

## The Senior Boom

According to the Alliance for Aging Research, America is beginning a senior boom. Every seven seconds another baby boomer turns 50—that's 10,000 people per day. The federal Administration on Aging says the number of seniors will continue to grow over the next three decades, producing a "record large proportion of elderly persons in the population." Not only is the senior population growing, many want to be seniors for a long time. Nearly two of three Americans want to live to be 100 years old and can reasonably expect medical science and their personal behavior to help them lead longer, healthier, and more independent lives (Alliance).

With over a third of our nation's population age 50 and older, ideas about this phase of life are changing too. While previous generations may have viewed retirement as a time to relax, Minnesota Board on Aging surveys show nearly one in five Minnesotans age 65 to 74 earns an income from a job. As the early baby boomers prepare for retirement, Cornell University researchers believe this number will increase. Their surveys show that about one-third of boomers plan to continue working, about one-third are considering more education, and about two-thirds consider travel and volunteering important.

## The Local Seniors' Scene

Lifelong learning and volunteerism can be found right here in Golden Valley, where more than 30 percent of the population is 55+. Barbara Bailey (see story at right), coordinator of the City's active Seniors Program, has identified three life elements many seniors want: new friends, an opportunity to serve others, and to have fun. To meet those needs, the **Golden Valley Park & Recreation Department's Seniors Program** offers a variety of social, recreational, and educational services to more than 2,000 senior citizens in three age spans of (55 - 65, 65 - 80, 80 and older).

"Seniors want to keep learning, says Bailey. "Participation in our special interest programs has soared. Our seniors bowl, sing,

hike, paint, walk, explore, play cards and games, attend classes and healthcare seminars, and study everything from history to investment opportunities."

They also travel. Last year the program offered 25 trips and tours to various points of interest throughout the state, along with five-day trips to Holland, Michigan and Branson, Missouri. For those who can't make an actual trip, the Armchair Travelers group provides videos, slides, and discussion about various countries. Special events include band concerts, dining, bowling tournaments, and holiday parties.

Through numerous cooperative ventures, the Seniors Program is able to provide a variety of needed services such as blood pressure screening, short-term counseling, health insurance Medicare help, outreach, and pre-retirement information. The Wellness and You series offers seminars on such diverse topics as strokes, medicine, gardening tips, music, vision, and holiday cooking. A monthly

Continental Breakfast program provides information on things like winter driving, art, Minnesota treasures, bone health, the importance of humor, and pain relief.

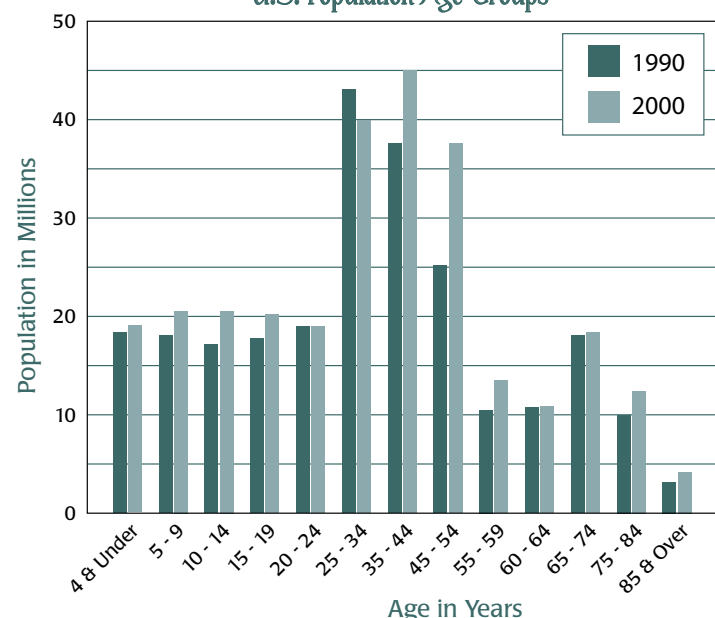
Besides enjoying recreation and education activities, seniors also yearn for an opportunity to help others, and volunteerism is often high on their list of things to do, says Bailey. "Seniors have a tremendous amount of talent and skill to offer the community. Our volunteer opportunities address a major lifestyle trend of aging adults."

As suggested by a recent University of Michigan study, local seniors are buying the notion that "a little volunteering can prolong your life." In 2002, 280 Golden Valley seniors volunteered more than 10,000 hours making calls, assisting

with office work, fundraising, making visits, teaching classes, and entertaining. Volunteer reporters and assemblers spend more than 500 hours a year producing the City's Senior newsletter. Community projects, such as immunization clinics, energy assistance programs, Dinner at Your Door, and grocery deliveries also benefit from the energy of local seniors.

For more information about the Golden Valley Seniors Program, visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/seniors.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/seniors.htm) or call 763-512-2339.

U.S. Population Age Groups



The senior boom is poised for explosion in the next ten years as the peak of the baby boomers slides over the 55 year young mark.  
Source: SeniorJournal.com

## GV Senior Coordinator Honored For Service

In January, Golden Valley Senior Citizen Coordinator Barbara Bailey received the Clifton E. French Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association (MRPA). Considered the MRPA's highest professional recognition, the French Award acknowledges Bailey's years of outstanding service to the profession and seniors throughout Minnesota.

Bailey began working with seniors in the park and recreation field more than 44 years ago, in her hometown of Hibbing. Since then she has started seniors programs in 12 communities throughout the metropolitan area, including Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Fridley, Plymouth, and West St Paul. In the 1970s, she wrote a grant for federal funding to expand senior park and recreation programs in suburban areas. "I've worked in small towns, suburbs, and big cities," says Bailey. "I've done it all."

Bailey's experience, energy, and enthusiasm have been the driving force behind Golden Valley's senior program for the past 25 years. One of her first priorities was to establish a Senior Program Advisory Committee to help select and evaluate programs. She currently works with more than 50 agencies to bring relevant and engaging programs to area seniors, including directly into local senior housing. In her time at Golden Valley, participation in the City's Seniors Program has grown from 200 to 2,000 members.

Along with her programming and collaborative skills, Bailey generously shares her expertise. She has served as a resource speaker for numerous organizations, private industries, nonprofits, and educational institutions such as the University of Minnesota. She has presented staff development workshops in Minneapolis, St Paul, and Duluth and has mentored more than 26 interns from the Universities of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Nebraska.

While Bailey has served the community and the state well, she is also active nationally as member of the National Recreation and Park Association, serving on the Leisure and Aging Board.



Age is a matter of feeling, not of years.  
George William Curtis

"It's not how old you are, but how you are old."  
Marie Dressler

"We're living through the greatest miracle in the history of our species --- the doubling of life expectancy."  
John Thierney



## REPORTING PROBLEMS WITH CONTRACTORS

The Department of Commerce's Enforcement and Licensing Division (612-296-2488 or 800-657-3602) helps consumers with questions about laws concerning industries it regulates.

If you hired a licensed contractor, a representative will help you try to resolve the matter informally. If the dispute is not resolved, you can submit a written complaint, with all relevant information, requesting the Department to initiate a formal investigation.

The Department investigates to determine if any violation of current Minnesota statutes or rules has occurred. If it finds a violation, it may impose sanctions on the contractor, such as license revocation or fines.

To request a formal investigation, write a letter that includes:

- details of the dispute, such as dates, what was said, and policy and claim numbers
- copies of relevant documents
- your phone number and address

Send your request to the Department of Commerce Enforcement Division, 133 East 7th St, St Paul, MN 55101.

## Avoid CONTRACTORS who:

- solicit door-to-door or arrive in an unmarked van or truck
- require large advance payments or are willing to do the job at an unusually low price
- refuse to provide a written estimate or contract
- refuse to provide you with a Minnesota Department of Commerce license number or insurance information.
- refuse to provide references you can contact
- use high pressure sales tactics

## Take Three Steps To Avoid the Contractor Blues

Talk to a few people about remodeling, and chances are you'll find someone who has had a bad contractor experience. Most contractors are good, says Golden Valley Building Inspector Jerry Frevel. However, he stresses that choosing a contractor carefully can minimize potential problems. Here's a three-step plan that may be helpful, once you have a clear idea of the work to be done.

### STEP ONE: GET REFERRALS

Unless it's for an emergency repair, it's usually not a good idea to select a random business from a directory, the *Yellow Pages*, or online. Instead, check with neighbors, friends, and relatives who have done home improvement projects. Ask about their satisfaction with the work, the price, and the time frame for completion. Local home improvement materials suppliers can also be a good source for recommendations. Often businesses keep referral lists. Some chapters of national organizations and associations for particular craft specialties may have available listings of their members.

### STEP TWO: NARROW THE PROSPECTS

Once you have several possible contractors in mind, get their license numbers. "A lot of people out there are trying to work without a license," says Frevel. Call the Minnesota Department of Commerce (1-800-657-3602) to be sure the contractor's license is current and to check if there is a disciplinary record. If you hire a non-licensed contractor, you are not eligible to receive money from the Contractors' Recovery Fund that compensates consumer losses due to a contractor's fraudulent, deceptive, and dishonest practices.

If contractors are licensed and have no disciplinary record, ask:


- how long and where they have been in business (longer and local are better)
- for proof of insurance coverage
- for references with phone numbers so you can check previous customers' satisfaction
- for a local phone number and address

### STEP THREE: SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Before signing a contract, be sure it includes a summary of the work, a description of materials, a total contract price or how that price will be calculated, and specific timelines or provisions. Your end of the bargain is making payments on time. However, avoid paying in cash. Payment by check will be a record of your payment. Write checks to the company, not to "cash" or a person's name.

Various permits are required during the course of the project. Check in with the contractor to make sure the proper permits are obtained (separate permits are required for plumbing and electrical work) and that a record of inspections is posted on the job site at all times.

Finally, do not sign a completion certificate unless all the work is completed according to the contract and to your satisfaction and a final inspection is performed by the City.

Finding the right contractor can save a lot of work and money. For more information on the remodeling process, call the [Golden Valley Inspections Department](#) at 763-593-8090. 

# City Crews Sweep Winter Away

Even though some winters seem to have less snow and fewer icy conditions than others, mother nature's antics keep City maintenance crews busy maintaining Golden Valley's streets so they are safe. Things like nuisance snows, prolonged cold periods, and endless days in the freeze/thaw cycle all provide conditions where the streets require attention.

Since November 2002, Golden Valley maintenance crews have used about 500 tons of salt and 2,000 tons of sand to battle icy conditions on City streets. As the snow melts, that sand and salt is visible on the streets. Each spring, City maintenance crews begin sweeping the streets as soon as possible, usually around mid-March, depending on the weather.

The first priority is "bulk sweeping" major intersections, hilly areas, and high traffic roads, where large amounts of sand and salt were distributed over the winter. A special effort is made to focus on areas near Bassett Creek to keep the sand from entering the creek. After this is complete, crews move into neighborhoods. Waiting a little longer to do residential streets minimizes the chance of a plowable snow while the street sweepers are in action. If the weather cooperates, bulk and curb-to-curb sweeping is done by May 1. Streets are swept again in the summer and fall (see schedule below).

For more information about street maintenance, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030



STREET SWEEPER

## FACTOID

Benjamin Franklin, famous for his common sense and frugality, organized the first street sweeping program.

# Pool/Golf Exchange

Summer is coming, and the Cities of Golden Valley and St Louis Park will continue their annual pool/golf exchange program. Each summer, Golden Valley residents can enjoy St Louis Park's aquatic center by purchasing season passes at St Louis Park resident rates. In exchange, St Louis Park residents can purchase patron cards at Brookview Golf Course at the resident rate and with the same benefits.

St Louis Park's outdoor family aquatic center is located at 2700 Monterey Dr, just east of Hwy 100 and Target. Scheduled to be open June 5 through September 1, it features a 300-foot water slide, a 275-foot inner tube ride, six-lane pool, two drop slides, and a one-meter diving board. There is also a large shallow water play area with zero-depth entry, water playground featuring amenities such as geysers and a tot water slide, a wet sand play area, outdoor beach volleyball courts, a concession area, and locker rooms. Hours are 11 am - 8 pm, Monday - Friday and 11 am - 7 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Daily admission is \$7 (ages 6-54) and \$4 (under age 6, age 55+, or after 5 pm). For more information, call St Louis Park Recreation at 952-924-2540. Separate passes are required for each person over the age of one.

For more information about the pool/golf exchange, call Golden Valley Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345.

## STREET SWEEPING SCHEDULE

Spring: Sweep curb-to-curb in mid-March/April.

Summer: Sweep all gutters in June; clean low collection areas and sweep as needed in July, August, and September.

Fall: Sweep curb-to-curb in October and November (wait for as many leaves to fall as possible).

Golden Valley is divided into four sections for street sweeping. This allows crews to rotate sections each year so no area is always first or last. This year, Section IV leads off the rotation, followed by sections III, II, and I.

Section I boundaries: Winnetka Ave, north City limit, south City limit, west City limit.

Section II boundaries: Winnetka Ave, north City limit, Hwy 100, Hwy 55

Section III boundaries: Hwy 100, north City limit, east City limit, Hwy 55

Section IV: Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave, south City limit, east City limit.

## Wet Your Line NOT WAIT IN LINE

Going fishing? Beat the rush before opening day and get your license(s) now.

### Hook, Line, and... Licenses

Both fishing and watercraft licenses are available at the Motor Vehicle Licensing Center in Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

763-593-8101



## SENIOR STUFF

**Membership Dues** for the Golden Valley Seniors Program are \$5 per person. Pay now to receive 2003 calendar.

**Special Events** (register early)—April 10: Spring Supper & Band Concert with Robbinsdale City Band, 6:30 pm, Brookview; April 14: Golden Valley Orchestra, 7 pm, Covenant Village of Golden Valley; April 25: Senior Safety Fair, 8:30 am -1:30 pm, Golden Valley Public Safety building; April 27: Spring Sing – Senior Choruses event, 3 pm, ArtsCenter Minnetonka; May 8: Celebrate Senior Dining, noon, Calvary Lutheran Church; May 13: Bowling Tourney, 12:30 pm, Texa-Tonka Lanes; May 19: Essay Contest Supper, 6:30 pm, Brookview; May 30: Spring Hat Luncheon, Noon, Brookview

**Defensive Driving Course**—At Brookview. Four-hour refresher: April 10 and May 23, 9 am – 1 pm;

**Blood Pressure Screening**—April 23 and May 28, 11 am - noon, Brookview.

**Continental Breakfast**—9:30 am, Brookview Community Center. April 23: "Telling Our Stories – World War II Women Veterans;" May 28: "Simplify Your Life By 'Using Principles of Feng Shui'"

**Wellness & You**—1:30 pm, Dover Hill. April 3: "A Matter of Heart;" May 1: "Live By Choice or Chance"

**Upcoming Trips** (register early)—April 24: "The Cocoanuts," Fitzgerald Theatre; May 1: "Main Street," History Theatre; May 16: Norwegian Celebration in Hanska; May 28 – State Capitol and LeCourdon Blue; June 6: Fountain City, WI; June 16 - 19: Quad Cities and Riverboat

**Nutrition & You**—9:30 am, Brookview. April 8: "Aging and Nutrition: Tips for Ways to Make Healthy Eating Easier;" May 6: "Food and Drug Interaction"

For more information or to register, contact:

**Golden Valley Seniors Program**  
**Brookview Community Center**  
 200 Brookview Parkway  
 Golden Valley, MN 55426  
 763-512-2339  
 8 am - 5 pm, Monday - Friday

# Vulnerable Adults May Need Your Help

With every passing year, American society is seeing an increase in the population of adults who may be unable to protect or care for themselves. For instance, because of advances in healthcare, today's seniors are staying healthy longer and are leading more active lifestyles than ever before (see related article on page 6). Some rely on family and professional caregivers so they can continue to live independently in their homes. And because of changes in funding for social programs, more adults with physical and mental disabilities are living in residential group homes in our neighborhoods. These changes can lead to an increased vulnerability for abuse.

There are several ways a vulnerable adult may be hurt or exploited, including:


- physical abuse (assault, injury, physical restraint)
- neglect (failure to provide food, clothing, medical care, etc)
- financial abuse (misuse of a person's money or property)
- sexual abuse (harassment, or nonconsensual touching or sexual activity)
- abandonment (desertion)
- emotional abuse (isolation, or threatening some or all of the above)

Warning signs of abuse can include bruises, lacerations, fractures, burns, bed sores, over- or under-medication, or unexpected deterioration of health. In some cases, the caregiver may refuse to let the adult have visitors. Adults who are being abused may also exhibit changes in behavior and appear unresponsive, withdrawn, agitated, and depressed.

Someone suffering from financial abuse may have an unexplained or sudden loss of money from accounts or an inability to pay bills. Other signs are a noticeable disparity between assets and living conditions and unusual interest by a family member in financial assets.

A person in crisis might welcome your help. If you think you know someone who may be a victim of abuse, there are many things you can do.

- If you feel comfortable, approach the person and offer assistance.
- If the person has family (eg, adult children, siblings, or parents), contact them. A neighbor or church nearby may also provide helpful information or assistance.
- If you are afraid or unwilling to approach the person, call 911. A police officer can respond, evaluate the situation, and take the person to a safe place if immediately necessary.
- If you are unable to contact a family member and the situation doesn't seem to justify police crisis intervention, contact an appropriate social service resource (see box).

If the situation doesn't feel right, respond to your instincts. A person's health and well-being may depend on you. 

## RESOURCES

**Hennepin County Adult Protection (612-348-2765)** can help assess a situation and intervene or refer as needed.

**First Call for Help (651-291-0211)** can provide information about a variety of advocacy organizations that might be able to assist.

**Council on Crime and Justice (612-648-7879)** helps victims of crime who need counseling or assistance.

# City Needs Firefighters

Paid, on-call fire departments are the most cost-effective way for cities to deliver fire service, and in today's economy that translates into tax savings for both businesses and residents. For 60 years, Golden Valley residents have relied on so-called ordinary people to protect our community. The **Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD)** is currently seeking men and women to step forward in the name of community service to staff its paid, on-call fire department.

There are two ways to serve. If you live within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, apply to become a night-time/weekend responder. Another is through Corporate Call, a collaboration with local businesses to recruit daytime responders (available Monday - Friday, 6 am - 6 pm) from within corporate ranks. Below, some of Golden Valley's newest recruits share their thoughts and insights on firefighting.

## THREE NEW FACES ON THE TEAM

Terry Kiblin, a Brooklyn Park resident who is a customer service representative at Tennant Corporation, is also a trained emergency medical technician. She saw a Corporate Call poster at work and decided to check it out. "I always wanted to be a firefighter," she says. "It's the training, the bonds, the adrenaline, and the fun." Now, several months into the training, Kiblin absolutely loves it. "It pushes me beyond limits I thought I could do." She says Tennant is very supportive of Corporate Call, which takes her away from her regular job an average of half-an-hour a day.



TERRY KIBLIN

Justin Opatrny is a desktop support analyst at General Mills who heard about Corporate Call through General Mills' volunteer newsletter. He's very excited about the result. "I've found the people to be really nice and supportive," he says. "It's a great way to help the community and help keep it safe." Opatrny estimates that his on-call firefighter position takes him away from the office about three to four hours a week, but he says that's not a problem because "General Mills is in it to help." Opatrny likes the community so much that he recently moved from St Louis Park to northeast Golden Valley, where he also serves as a nighttime responder for Fire Station Three.



JUSTIN OPATRNY & DOUG SODERLING

Golden Valley resident Doug Soderling says he's wanted to be a firefighter since he was young and "decided I had better do it before I was too old." He likes the fun and the adrenaline rush, though the biggest reward is the team effort. "It's like being on the high school basketball team—everyone working together for the same goal." Soderling also believes it's important to give back to the community. "I never did much volunteering or have been too active in the community," he adds. "This is my chance. And you can't beat it when a little kid comes running up you. I just hope I say the right thing."

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in becoming a Golden Valley Firefighter, visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us), or call 763-593-8055.

## THE RIGHT STUFF

To be a paid, on-call firefighter, you must:

- be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent
- have a valid Minnesota Class D driver's license (with a good driving record)
- have a positive, constructive image and attitude
- live or work within six minutes of a fire station and have dependable transportation
- be in good health and pass physical and psychological exams, a physical abilities test, a background investigation, and a written exam
- complete an oral interview
- complete a probation period
- complete basic recruit training and requirements for first responder training
- wear a pager while on call and be available for a reasonable number of fire calls, drills, and meetings
- be available for work detail once every two months
- be able to make decisions regarding the safety of other firefighters and yourself
- work as a team member under extremely stressful conditions

## SALARY AND BENEFITS

- hourly salary
- pension plan
- disability benefits

## REWARDS

- increased self-confidence, experience, responsibility, social connections and events, fun and friends, and a chance to be a positive community role model



## GVHSF SELECTS 2003 T-SHIRT DESIGN

Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) provides *Run The Valley* (see story at left) participants with a T-shirt to commemorate the event. The design is changed annually and the process is open to the community. This year's winner is Molly Redepenning, a design student who lives in Golden Valley.

Redepenning is a student at North Hennepin Community College and plans to graduate in fall 2003. For winning, she was awarded 10 T-shirts printed with her design. GVHSF retains sole ownership of the winning design and permission to reuse it when so desired. For more information on the *Run the Valley* T-shirt design contest, including past winners, log on to the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley).

### Run the Valley



## Run The Valley Set For April 12

Sign up now for the ninth annual *Run the Valley*, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF). The 5K and 10K race and 5K walk will be Saturday, April 12, at 8:30 am. Start and finish will be near the Brookview Park parking lot (one block south of Hwy 55 and Winnetka Ave at Brookview Parkway), and the certified course runs a relatively flat loop through residential Golden Valley.

Entry fees are \$15 through April 9 and \$20 on race day. Register on-line at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com); in person or by mail before April 9 at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd (hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm); or in person at Brookview Park on race day between 7:30 and 8:15 am. Medals are awarded to the top three males and females in each category. All entrants receive a long-sleeve T-shirt and post-race complimentary snacks.

Corporate sponsors are Liberty Carton, the Lupient Foundation, and Wells Fargo. Other sponsors include Byerly's, Cable 12, Golden Valley Country Club, Golden Valley Rotary, Perkins, Super America Golden Valley, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait.

The GVHSF distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly benefiting the community. These include the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Home Free Shelter, North Hennepin Mediation Center, PRISM, Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door, Senior Community Services, and YMCA Detached Work Program.

For more information about *Run the Valley* or other GVHSF events, call 763-593-8010.



763-593-8000

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

SCOTT D. GRAYSON | GLORIA L. JOHNSON | JAN A. LESUER | BLAIR TREMERE

MAYOR | LINDA R. LOOMIS

MAYOR/COUNCIL MSG LINE | 763-593-8001

CITY MANAGER | THOMAS BURT

EDITOR | CHERYL WEILER

ASSISTANT EDITOR | TINA PERPICH

GRAPHIC DESIGNER | SIRI KHALSA

City of  
**Golden Valley**  
7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Printed on 20% post-consumer recycled paper.  
Available on audio tape.

**Notice:** To retain cost-effective rates, new postal regulations require us to mail to complete carrier routes, even if they are beyond city borders. We apologize to non-Golden Valley residents who get this newsletter unsolicited.

**ECRWSS**  
**Postal Customer**

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1659  
Mpls, MN